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MEMO TO: SA/HR

DATE: 9 April 1956

THRU : Chief, S/OM  
Chief, D/S  
Chief, ERA

FROM : [REDACTED] S/OM

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SUBJECT: Attendance at 1956 Meeting of the Far Eastern Association.

With Agency permission and sponsorship I attended the eighth annual meeting of the Far Eastern Association held in Philadelphia on 3-5 April 1956. In addition to the several panel sessions which covered subjects of interest to me and of value as background for my work, this meeting provided a useful opportunity to meet with and discuss matters of current interest with scholars and journalists specializing in Chinese and Far Eastern affairs.

Of the panel sessions one in particular appeared to me to have relevance as background for economic intelligence on China. The subject of Economic Stagnation in Modern China was covered in some detail, documenting the failure of previous regimes in China to provide a favorable climate for the growth of modern economy. In subsequent discussion the response of Japan to Western influences was compared to China's, and it was suggested that Japan's relative success and China's relative failure to modernize and grow economically could be explained in part by factors of motivation in the elites of each country. This suggests that in our own studies of organization and management of the Chinese economy, we should give attention to the contributions of the sociologists, social psychologists and anthropologists with regard to institutional, motivational and cultural influences on basic personality. One of the Chinese Communists' more pressing problems has been to overcome traditional habits of family loyalty, "squeeze" and nepotism in the bureaucrats, technicians and managers which they have inherited from previous times. One of their means of doing this was briefly described at another session in an address by an Army psychiatrist, who has attempted to evaluate in terms of his discipline the process of thought reform of Chinese intellectuals.

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I also attended sessions discussing the problem of assimilation of overseas Chinese, the present situation in Formosa and the handling of

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news from Asia. Although these subjects were not presented from an intelligence point of view, the first two, at least, were suggestive of useful lines of inquiry.

In sum, I believe that my attendance at this meeting was of value in enabling me to meet and talk with several people who are carrying out useful studies in the field. It was also of value in stimulating my own thinking and in suggesting lines of inquiry which could produce contributions to US intelligence within the framework of OIR responsibilities.

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